

A Taste of College Life: Summer Programs for Middle and High School Students

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Gallaudet University, in partnership with V.R. counselors and State V.R. directors, families, and local education agencies, is committed to enhancing transitional opportunities available to middle and high school students around the United States. Awareness of college and other post-secondary options needs to be front and center for this age group in order to maximize their chances of success in post-secondary endeavors

MODEL PROGRAMS

Goal: To assist students in preparing for young adulthood whether attending a post-secondary school or for direct entrance into employment settings.

**For Middle School Youth
Model Programs at the Community level**

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY'S FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL TO COLLEGE A ROAD MAP

Program Goals

To provide an opportunity for middle school students, particularly those from underrepresented/minority groups (often the first in their families to attend college) to start the process of seriously considering post-secondary educational options.

By seeing deaf and hard of hearing role models from Gallaudet University who have similar cultural backgrounds, the middle school students are encouraged to work hard to attain college admission and then ultimately to Become college graduates.

They are also encouraged to start the process, where appropriate, of seeing their lives as future college students.

Examples of Student Feedback (From Middle School to College)

Students were unaware:

- that Gallaudet serves all kinds of deaf students including international students and hearing students.
- what kind of majors and careers Gallaudet offers
- that Gallaudet has a "Keeping the Promise" program specifically to support African American and Latino students
- that Gallaudet has summer programs to enhance a variety of skills

**For High School Youth
Model Programs at the University level**

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY'S KNOWLEDGE FOR COLLEGE

Program Goals

To provide academic activities designed to help deaf and hard of hearing high school students prepare for the ACT exams in the English, Reading, and Math content areas.

To provide academic activities designed to help deaf and hard of hearing high school students explore their career interests and academic majors.

To provide experiential activities designed to help deaf and hard of hearing high school students develop personal skills related to group work, team building, and self-confidence.

Actions based on Assessment Results, 2008–2010 (Knowledge for College)

A two week program was recommended by the students of 2008. The program was extended to two weeks in 2009 and 2010.

Students stated that there was an added benefit of being able to interact with hearing high school students who were simultaneously at Gallaudet University to learn ASL.

The majority of the students reported learning new things about their own values, interests, skills, and career options, so that a continued emphasis on our program goals will occur.

In 2010, 64% of the students improved on the English portion of the ACT and 54% improved on the Reading portion of the ACT test. (For example, a student may have started with a score of an ACT 12 and it increased to 15)

The majority of the students improved on the Math test in both 2009 and 2010.

**For High School Youth
Model Programs at the University level**

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY'S LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**

Program Goals

To provide academic activities designed to help deaf and hard of hearing high school students narrow their career interests.

To provide academic activities designed to help deaf and hard of hearing high school students explore several possible career paths, thus encouraging an early start in exploration of and exposure to career fields.

To provide experiential activities designed to help deaf and hard of hearing high school students develop personal skills related to group work, team building, and self-confidence.

Examples of Student Feedback (Knowledge for College)

"The career class was one of my favorite classes to attend. I really learned a lot about myself as a person and my potential future." (Career Exploration)

"I learned how to interact with people where you never meet and never know about a person." (Diversity Training)

"Excellent! I learned my qualities that could affect my future in jobs and personality." (Career Exploration)

"I'm not quite there yet but improving as I learn." (ACT Prep)

